

History of Recreation in Torrance Dates Back to 1936

The first recreation program in Torrance was organized during the depression years, in 1936, with a WPA program under the direction of Dale Riley.

According to old timers, recreation needs in the city were handled by a coordinating council during and after the WPA program.

Riley is best remembered for the many championship hardball playoffs held at Torrance park during the late 30's and early 40's.

Part-Time Basis
The program continued during the war years on a part-time basis, and expansion of the program began immediately after the close of World War II.

Elmer "Red" Moon was one of the first indications of the expanding program when he was hired in March of 1945 as athletic director.

The program continued to grow under Riley's and Moon's leadership until April of 1950 when Frank H. Carpenter was hired as the first full-time recreation director. The duties of a recreational director were defined with Carpenter's hiring.

Moon continued as director of athletics. For the first time since the depression years, a program under Carpenter's direction was organized after school and during the summer months, utilizing school facilities.

In 1953, Carpenter left to take over the San Gabriel department, and Harry B. Van Bellehem became recreation director.

Commission Formed
The records reveal that the first recreation commission was formed as the result of official recognition of the need for organized recreation in the City of Torrance.

In April of 1949, Ordinance No. 484 was adopted, establishing a Recreation Commission. Since that time, a new Ordinance No. 614 has been drawn up and governs the operation of the present Recreation Commission. Under the present Ordinance, the commission has seven members, appointed by the Mayor of the city with the approval of the City Council.

The Commission has various duties, some of these being: 1. To make recommendations to the City Council. 2. To assist in the development of recreation in the City. 3. To promote interests of the people in public recreation.

Commissioners
The first official Recreation Commission was appointed in 1952, the first commissioners being: Bert Johnson, Clair Olsen, A. J. Patrosky, Mrs. Phyrne Laughon, Marvin Goettsch, Darwin Parrish, Mrs. W. C. Boswell. The first chairman was Darwin Parrish.

Since the beginning of the Recreation Commission, a number of recreational facilities have been made available to the public. The Chairman of the present commission is Bob Almond.

Other commissioners are: Mrs. W. C. Boswell, Mrs. Anne Collins, Mrs. Herma Tillim, Anthony Bilotti, Clair Olsen, and J. H. Paget.

Mrs. Boswell is a Torrance housewife and belongs to various other organizations, such as the Women's club, Accent Theater, YWCA, Torrance Memorial hospital auxiliary, and is Moderator for the TEAC.

Mrs. Tillim is well known for her work in Youth Employment Service. She operates the Torrance Personnel Agency in Torrance. She is a member of the Welfare Council, YWCA, Co-

ordinating Council, and at the present time is working on the Rabies Law. Bilotti is the newest commission member.

He works for the maintenance department of the City of Palos Verdes Estates. He is a Representative of the North Torrance Rotars Inc.

Bob Almond, present commission chairman, operates a shoe store in Hawthorne. He was a member of the Kiwanis club, and is a present member of the Methodist Men's club.

Mrs. Anne Collins is a Torrance housewife, but is a member of various organizations.

She is a member of the Hope church, Fuchsia society, Registrar of Voters, and a past secretary of the North Torrance Civic Organization.

Olsen has been an employee of the United States Steel company for 21 years and is a member of the Masons.

Paget is manager of J. J. Newberry's locally. He is a director of the Chamber of Commerce and also a director of Retail Merchants.

Secretary to the Recreation Commission is Mrs. Violet Whittington. She is also secretary to Harry Van Bellehem, recreation director.

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OLD POST with new duties is what Richard Hubert assumed when he was appointed special services assistant, attendance, in the Torrance Unified school district. His new duties include keeping the school district informed on matters of city growth so that the school district can plan its program accordingly.—Press Photo.

First Hearing Held On Catholic High School

First hearing on a request for a zone change to permit construction of a Catholic high school south of Torrance boulevard and the westerly boundary line of Torrance was held before the Planning Commission last week Wednesday. No objections were heard.

Disneyland Winners Announced

The Torrance Recreation Department announced the winners of the Disneyland tour which was held recently. The trip was awarded to the high point boy and girl on each playground, points being accumulated through winning and participating in tournaments staged each Friday at all of the playground areas.

Winners of the final tournaments are: Crenshaw School: Donald Jenkins (139), and Barbara Steiner (94); North Torrance: Jerry Colwell (52), and Joan Loruenser (40); McMaster Park: Ricky Jacobs (225), and Marjorie Meglen (163); Fern Greenwood: Billy Miller (125), and Marion Terhamany (100); Torrance Park: Mark Hunt (84), and Sharon Clark (59); Walteria School: John Coberly (173), and Patty Lewis (174); Walteria Park: John Duple (162), and Janet O'Brien (196); El Retiro Park: Robin Sedar (176), and Wendy Sedar (148); Seaside School: Lloyd Lesser (101), and Barbara Anderson (46); Hillside School: Don Clark (135), and Kathy Cady (110); Hollywood Riviera: George Cobabe (93), and Dotsy Booth (97).

The trip was made possible through the generosity of John Melville of the Mayfair Creamery of Torrance, Les Breitenfeldt, supervisor of boy's activities for the department, stated.

Adult Club Plays Venice

Members of the Torrance Adult club went to Venice recently for a shuffleboard match. Torrance won eleven games and Venice won thirteen.

A white cake with a shuffleboard court and "Welcome, Torrance" written in blue, pink, and red icing was a feature of the luncheon served after the game.

Entertainment was provided by Danny Meye on the saxophone and Stan Vitneck on the accordion.

City's Origin, Growth Described by Founder

(Ed. Note:—The following article was written in August, 1916, by the late Jared Sidney Torrance, founder of the city, who herewith sets forth his reasons for founding the community).

By JARED SIDNEY TORRANCE

The rapid rise in the value of Los Angeles real estate between 1900 and 1910 was the direct cause of the inception of the undertaking to build a new industrial center near the harbor of San Pedro to which subsequently the name of Torrance was given. The Union Tool Company, one of the subsidiary corporations controlled by the Union Oil Co., needed additional area for expansion. The plant in Los Angeles had grown from a small beginning until it covered several acres.

To obtain additional adjoining area the enormous price of \$2.50 per square foot, or over \$100,000 per acre, was asked!

This was prohibitive. The idea was suggested that the company seek a new location, and build an entirely new plant, introducing every labor-saving device possible and the most efficient machinery and equipment obtainable.

The then-existing plant was obsolete, inconvenient and inefficient, having been built up piece-meal upon opposite sides of San Mateo St.

Land Purchased
I opened negotiations with the attorney for the Dominguez family, which owned a large tract of land between Los Angeles and San Pedro. This resulted in the purchase of about 2800 acres of land from the Dominguez Estate Company for the sum of \$980,000; and shortly afterwards of an additional 730 acres from one of the Dominguez heirs for about \$550,000.

The Dominguez Land Company was incorporated with a capital of \$300,000, and I was made its president. Later the Dominguez Land Corporation was organized and I was made its president, also. The latter corporation had a capital stock of \$2,000,000 and it issued bonds for \$1,500,000, the proceeds of the sale of which practically paid for the land. This latter corporation became the operating company.

The Union Tool Company took an interest in the enterprise, purchased 25 acres of land, and constructed its present magnificent plant at a cost of over \$800,000.

The entire tract was supplied with water by the Dominguez Water Company, formed to supply domestic and irrigation water for nearly 20,000 acres of land. Its 33-inch wide main crosses our lands to a large, substantial reservoir near our northwestern corner.

Noted Planner
We employed the noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted of Boston, Mass., to lay out the townsite. The company employed H. H. Sinclair, formerly engineer of the Edison Company, as its general manager.

After protracted negotiations, a deal was closed with the Pacific Electric Railway to build its railroad through the townsite and to serve the industrial interests which might locate there.

The contract with them also provided that within three years, before July, 1915, they would remove their general construction and repair shops from Los Angeles and locate the same on 125 acres of our land to be given without further consideration. Their plant was to have been completed and in operation by July 1, 1915.

Iron Works
Next in order of importance, a contract was made with the Llewellyn Iron Works of Los Angeles, which provided that they were to acquire a 15 per cent interest in the stock of our company, purchase 25 acres of the company's land and, within 18 months, to construct a new plant thereon and remove their plant there.

In the meantime, the Hendrie Rubber Company, the Pacific Metal Products Company, the Torrance Pearl Manufacturing Company, the California Shoe Manufacturing Company, and the Hurrie Window Glass Company have built plants at Torrance. The shoe company

failed, but all the rest are in operation.

Town Starts
Coincident with commencement of construction work by the Union Tool Company, the work of laying out the town of Torrance was begun. Architect Olmsted had completed plans and contracts were let by General Manager Sinclair for a vast amount of street work, a water distribution plant, a sewer system, street lighting, etc., and for construction of a hundred or more houses, six brick blocks, a passenger depot and various other improvements—all first class.

Rigorous restrictions were adopted, looking toward the creation of a model industrial city. Indeed, some of them, in reference to racial matters, tread pretty hard on the toes of the Constitution of the United States.

In order to provide funds for construction, the company created a serial six per cent coupon not issue of \$750,000, due in from one to five years, and the stockholders paid in par for their 5000 shares of stock. The notes were taken largely by the stockholders.

Panic of 1913
As soon as the project was well under way and construction had proceeded to a certain stage a sales campaign was started to sell business and residential lots and acreage. Sales were progressing very satisfactorily and closely approached the \$1,000,000 mark when the panic of 1913 intervened and the campaign ended.

The Llewellyn Iron Works was nearly ready to begin actual construction on the ground but stringent financial conditions made it impossible for them to proceed. As the skies began to clear in the summer of 1914, the awful European war burst forth and business stagnation ensued.

The Union Tool Company was employing about 500 men in July, 1914, had completed an extension to their plant and equipment, and was arranging to add an additional 300 employees. Within 90 days the company practically shut down the plant, reducing the working force to less than 50 men. The result was lamentable.

The Pacific Electric also prayed for an extension of time in which to erect their plant which, of course, was granted. The Llewellyn Iron Works was unable to finance their construction and carry out their contract and they, too, were given an extension of time.

Times Improve
At this writing, August, 1916, the Union Tool Company has resumed work, now employing nearly 400 men; the Llewellyn Iron Works is erecting its plant and the Pacific Electric is to start construction at once. There is absolute stagnation, however, in the real estate business and sales are nil.

We are erecting an additional hundred bungalows to meet a prospective early demand but they will, for the greater part, have to be rented as no one seems to be in a mood to purchase any real estate in any form.

The enterprise has few stockholders. For the greater part they are men of means. It was the expressed wish of these latter gentlemen that the first consideration should be to do things right.

Plans were carefully considered and all construction work was of the most thorough character. Material results were to be the first consideration.

School Board Purpose
The purpose of the Board of Education, is announced by J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, is to assure that the school program serves children's needs, is close to the people, is economical in operation, and has adequate housing.

Nearly 800 more students have registered this year than were enrolled at a comparable time last year according to an announcement of Menl F. Sloan, director of student personnel at the college.

Meeting demands of increasing enrollment, five additional instructors are conducting classes at El Camino college this week. This brings teachers new to the campus this year to a total of 34 and the total faculty-administrative group to 150.

Newcomers named today by President Forrest G. Murdock are Robert O. Maier, a math instructor, whose work preparatory to receiving the secondary teaching credentials was completed at Los Angeles State college; Robert J. Tufts, physics, whose MA degree came from the College of the Pacific; Robert C. Putzel, history, who received his master of arts degree from Texas Western; Edwin H. Robbins, psychology, who is completing his doctoral work at the University of Southern California, and Miss Fannie E. Nichols, English, whose work for the doctorate is being completed at the University of California at Los Angeles.

At the close of the first registration period of the college, Wednesday, enrollment neared the 5800 mark. An additional 1000 students are expected to have registered before the enrollment deadline tomorrow. Registration hours will be 1 to 3 and 5:30 until 8 p.m.

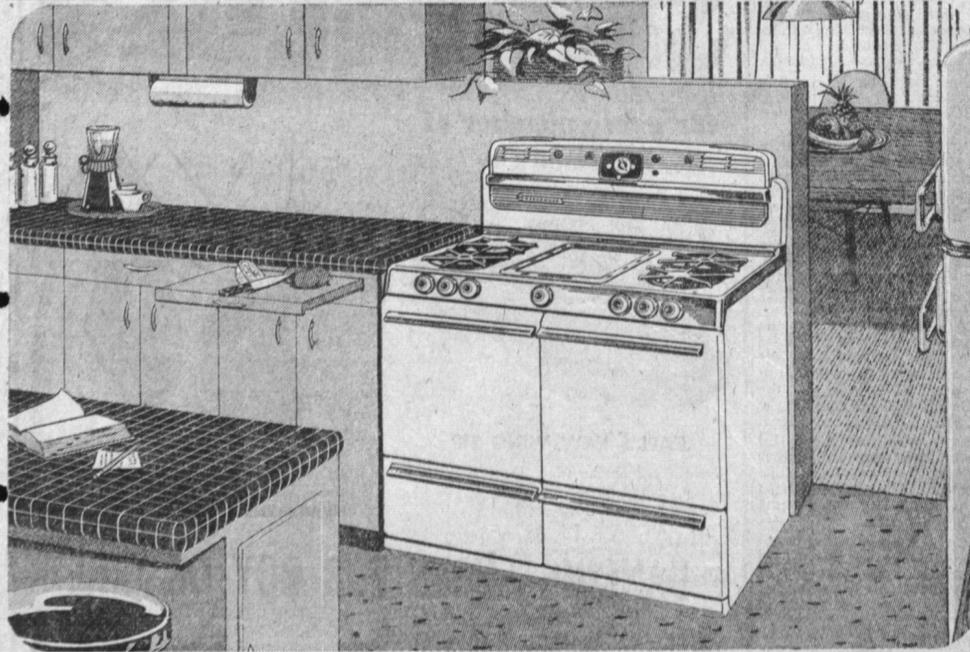
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TALK ABOUT ECONOMY: Modern electric ranges generate intense heat fast, and concentrate it on the cooking, without heating the kitchen or the cook. It takes just a short time—and a very, very few cents worth of electricity—to cook—complete, delicious meals for your whole family.

ELECTRIC COOKING IS TODAY'S BIGGEST BARGAIN!

NATIONAL HOME WEEK
the Home Building Industry's annual event
September 10-18

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY



New Gas ranges cost less to buy and use. Range illustrated is WEDGEWOOD.

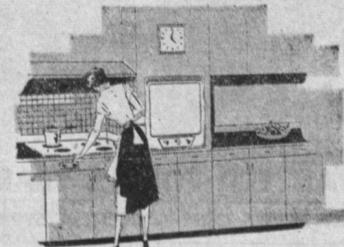
Look at all the time-saving features you get on a new GAS range

- SUPER-SPEED BROILER**
Special radiants in Gas broiler direct quick, searing heat of live Gas flame downward for fast broiling—flame-kissed flavor.
- NEEDLE PILOTS**
Tiny Gas needle pilots, all but invisible at 3 feet, give instantaneous lighting. Needle pilots are so small they leave no hot spots.
- TIMER FOR TOP BURNER**
Automatically shuts off top burner when pre-set cooking time is up. No pot-watching. And Gas gives you 1001 heats.
- CLOCK CONTROL**
Automatic clock control frees you for other tasks. Turns oven on and off. Oven control holds exact heat you choose.
- EASY-TO-WASH PARTS**
New Gas ranges clean up in jig time. Many parts lift out for sudsing in sink. One-piece tops and seamless ovens clean easily.

See the latest models at any dealer's or your Gas Company's showrooms.
ONLY GAS GIVES YOU SUCH MODERN AUTOMATIC APPLIANCES



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